

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. An adjustable stand assembly to mount a tree to stand upright in a vertical orientation.

The stand assembly consists of:

a pot shaped member attached firmly to the base of a tree trunk;

a cover with a central opening for the pot member;

a bowl member that accepts the cover, holds 3 gallons of water and has a means of retaining the pot member;

a base member whose top has a downward concave surface which meets with the bowl bottom and has a return lip at the outer edge to facilitate moving the stand with tree;

a plastic or woven cloth sheet placed on the floor where the stand is to be set up, the base rests on this sheet and the tree assembly can be moved by pulling on the sheet;

2. The stand assembly of claim 1.

Wherein the pot member is attached firmly to the tree by means of a plurality of holding devices such as nails, screws, tapered bolts, pointed, or unpointed metal rods held and guided by two spaced holes; one in the outer downward lip of the pot top and the second hole through the sloping sides of the pot proper in line with the first hole and both aligned horizontally and pointing to the center of the pot.

The attachment to the tree can be aided by first drilling a small guide hole into the tree in line with the attachment. A benefit of drilling the hole is that it makes it easier to remove the attachments at the end of the season if one wants to save the bowl for other applications;

3. The pot member of claim 2.

Wherein the pot is circular in cross section making it possible to rotate the tree to show off best branches or to rotate the tree in setting up lights or ornaments and the removal of same at season's end;

4. The pot member of claim 3.

Wherein a plurality of holes are located at the outer bottom of the pot to allow water to enter the pot and tree and to drain the pot of water when the tree is lifted out to be discarded;

5. The cover member of claim 1.

Wherein the cover has a sloping upper surface to better resist side loads imposed by the pot when the tree is tipped. The cover has a down and outward slant to the lip to make it easier to install over the bowl. The lip of the cover has the function of transferring side loads to the bowl as well as acting as an enclosure cover;

6. The cover member of claim 5.

Wherein the cover central opening has a downward circular sloping surface to accommodate the circular and downward slope of the pot. This sloping surface guides the pot when it is placed into the stand. It holds the pot firmly and accepts side loads from the pot when the tree is tipped. This cover surface may have downward or raised indented pillow members impressed in the cover to further strengthen the cover and to provide a decorative pleasing design;

7. The cover member of claim 6.

Wherein the cover is circular in cross section to aid in manufacture. The circular center opening allows the rotation of the pot with tree;

8. The bowl member of claim 1.

Wherein the bowl is circular in cross section with an outer extended downward slope of the rim to match with the cover lip and to receive side loads from the cover. The side loads are re-acted by the lower surface of the bowl meeting with the corresponding lower base surface;

9. The bowl member of claim 8.

Wherein the center bottom of the bowl has a raised ring that matches and fits around the outer base of the pot. It holds the pot securely and reacts side loads that may be induced by tipping the tree;

10. The bowl member of claim 9.

Wherein the raised ring of the bowl bottom has an upper slanted down and inward sloping ramp surface. When the pot and tree are being installed in the stand, this ramp prevents the edge of the pot from getting hung up on the raised ring; it guides the pot to seat properly in the raised ring;

11. The bowl member of claim 10.

Wherein the lower surface of the bowl is convex spherical in nature and rests on a corresponding concave spherical surface of the base. The spherical radius center of the

bowl is set at the approximate center of gravity of a nine foot tall tree. This radius turns out to be 36 inches or a third of the way up from the end of the tree. This radius is always greater than the radius of the base.

12. The bowl member of claim 11.

Wherein the sloping wall of the bowl is slightly indented to mark the 3 gallon fill line of the bowl;

13. The base member of claim 1.

Wherein the upper surface of the base member is concave spherical in nature. The spherical radius is smaller than the radius of the bowl. This allows the outer rim of the bowl to contact first which introduces a stabilizing effect on the assembly, preventing the bowl from rocking on the base. This radius of curvature can be set at 34 inches or less;

14. The base member of claim 13.

Wherein the concave spherical surface extends out and beyond the spherical surface of the bowl. Since the bowl slides on the lower spherical surface to set the tree up straight, it is prudent to extend the base spherical surface to be able to maintain full contact with the entire spherical surface of the bowl;

15. The base member of claim 14.

Wherein the base has a sloping down and outward outer rim with a return lip. The object of the return lip is to allow the base with bowl, pot and tree to be able to slide along a floor or carpet top to reposition the location of the tree. The lip can also capture spilled water;

16. The base sheet of claim 1.

Wherein the base sheet is placed on the floor or carpet and the base located on top. The sheet enables one to slide the entire tree assembly to another desirable location by grasping the edges of the sheet and pulling to the new location. The base sheet, when spread out, also acts to catch any falling pine needles, broken ornaments and the like. The sheet may also be folded around the top of the stand to simulate snow and to hide the stand.

17. The components of claim 1.

Wherein the pot, cover, bowl, and base all have sufficient draft to allow each component to be stacked atop itself, reducing shipping volume and reducing the cost of shipping, storage and floor space.